

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-15. (canceled).

Claim 16. (currently amended) A configurable add-drop multiplexing device for an optical wavelength division multiplex transmission system, comprising:

a group filter which divides an incoming WDM signal into a plurality of channel groups with channels of different wavelengths;

a plurality of different exchangeable modules types, each of which connected to a respective channel group for connecting through and branching off channels, wherein each of plurality of different exchangeable modules comprise at least one-two of a first, a second, and a third module type, and inserted according to the following requirements:

the first module type being for manual reconfiguration of connected-through and add-drop channels with which longer-term connections of the channels of a channel group are realized;

the second module type being for remote configuration of channels to be connected-through and add-drop channels of one of the channel groups with which short-term connections of the channels of the one channel group are realized;

the third module type utilized for closed connecting-through of a channel group; and

a combination filter which receives and combines reconfigured channel groups outputted from the plurality of different exchangeable modules depending on their type, wherein the combination filter forms an outgoing WDM signal.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 16 wherein the first module type comprises substantially a WDM demultiplexer, a manually configurable switching unit, and a WDM multiplexer.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 16 wherein the second module type comprises a WDM demultiplexer, a remote-configurable switching unit, and a WDM multiplexer.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 16 wherein the second module type comprises an add-drop-continue device with a series connection of at least one circulator, a tunable filter, and a coupling-in device.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 19 wherein the transmission loss of the tunable filter is adjustable.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 20 wherein the transmission loss of the tunable filter is thermally adjustable.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 16, wherein the third module type comprises an optical connecting cable.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 16, further comprising a fourth module type, wherein said fourth module type establishes a remote configuration of drop-continue channels by coupling out a part of an incoming signal of a channel group and transmitting the other part.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 23 wherein the fourth module type comprises:

a coupling device for coupling out at least part of a signal representing the incoming channel group;

a circulator; and
at least one tunable filter for coupling out specific channels of said channel group.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 23 wherein the fourth module type has a coupling device for coupling out at least part of the incoming WDM signal representing the incoming channel group, and at least one filter arrangement acting as a WDM demultiplexer for separating the coupled-out WDM signal into a plurality of channels of different wavelength.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 19 wherein narrow-band series-connected Bragg channel filters are provided which are tuned with regard to resonant wavelength having a stop band which is so narrow that a filter tuned to a wavelength lying between the channels significantly does not influence a function of adjacent channels.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 26 wherein the series connection of the tunable filters is terminated by an optical absorber into which non-reflected WDM signals are directed.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device of claim 24 wherein, the fourth module includes a plurality of tunable filters and an additional WDM demultiplexer receiving the coupled-out part of the signal representing the channel group, designated for outputting at least a number of the channels which corresponds to a number of the tunable filters.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The add-drop multiplexing device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the channels of at least one of the channel groups are adjacent in terms of frequency.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A wavelength division multiplex transmission system, comprising:

a plurality of add-drop multiplexing devices connected to one another via optical waveguides; and

each of the add-drop multiplexing devices comprising:

a group filter which divides an incoming WDM signal into a plurality of channel groups with channels of different wavelengths,

a plurality of different exchangeable modules types each of which connects to a respective channel group for connecting through and branching off channels, wherein

the exchangeable modules comprise at least one-two of first, second, and third module types,

the first module type being for manual reconfiguration of connected-through and add-drop channels with which longer-term connections of the channels of a channel group are realized,

the second module type being for remote configuration of channels to be connected through and add-drop channels of one of the channel groups with which short-term connections of the channels of the one channel group are realized, the third module type utilized for closed connecting-through of a channel group, and

a combination filter which receives and combines reconfigured channel groups outputted from the plurality of different exchangeable modules depending on their type, wherein the combination filter forms an outgoing WDM signal.

Claim 31. (currently amended) A configurable add-drop multiplexing device for an optical wavelength division multiplex transmission system, comprising:

a group unit which divides an incoming WDM signal into a plurality of channel groups;

a plurality of different exchangeable modules each of which connect to a respective channel group for connecting through and branching off channels, wherein

the exchangeable modules comprise at least one-two of a first, a second, and a third module types;

the first module type being for manual reconfiguration of connected-through and add-drop channels with which longer-term connections of the channels of a channel group are realized;

the second module type being for remote configuration of channels to be connected through and add-drop channels of one of the channel groups with which short-term connections of the channels of the one channel group are realized;

the third module type being for closed connecting-through of a channel group; and

a combination unit the receives and combines reconfigured channel groups outputted from the plurality of different exchangeable modules depending on their type, wherein the combination unit forms an outgoing WDM signal.